



CONFEDERATION
OF CHESS FOR
AMERICAS

XV PAN AMERICAN U7-U17 CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP ABSOLUTE AND FEMALE - 2026

SONSONATE – EL SALVADOR – MAY 11 TO 18

INVITATION

The Confederation of Chess of America (CCA) and the Salvadoran Chess Federation (FSA) invite all National Federations of the American Continent to the XV Pan American Chess Championship 2026, to be held in the city of Sonsonate, El Salvador.



Image 1: Sonsonate

SONSONATE, PLAYA SALINITAS

Gray sand, rocky areas, and reefs make this beach one of the most outstanding in the western part of the country. Although diving and snorkeling are the main activities, you can also enjoy other activities such as kayaking, boat trips, sunbathing on the warm sand, and swimming in the crystal-clear waters.



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This beach is home to a wide variety of marine species, including barracudas, rays, groupers, octopuses, lobsters, angelfish, and parrotfish, among others. In addition, steam and sail boats that have been part of this landscape since 1800 can be seen in the distance.

I.- VENUE, DATES, AND LOCATION OF THE GAME

The XV Pan American U7-U17 Chess Championship 2026 will take place in the city of Sonsonate from May 11 to 18, 2026. The venue for the event will be the **HOTEL ROYAL DECAMERON SALINITAS** located in Playa Salinitas, Sonsonate.

Playing area



Playing room



Images 2: Gaming area, Playing Hall, and views of the host hotel

II.- PARTICIPANTS

The Pan American Chess Championship is open to athletes representing national chess federations from countries in the Americas, in categories ranging from Under 7 to Under 17. **This event replaces the Pan American School Championship.**



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CATEGORIES:

Under 17 Female and Absolute (Born in 2009 or later)
Under 15 Female and Absolute (Born in 2011 or later)
Under 13 Female and Absolute (Born in 2013 or later)
Under 11 Female and Absolute (Born in 2015 or later)
Under 9 Female and Absolute (Born in 2017 or later)
Under 7 Female and Absolute (Born in 2019 or later)

Depending on the number of participants, some categories may eventually play together in the same tournament. However, they will be awarded separately.

OFFICIAL PLAYERS:

The following players will be considered official title defenders, if eligible:

1. The champions of each category of the XIV Pan American School Chess Championship 2025, held in Brazil;
2. The champions of each category of the III Central American and Caribbean School Chess Festival 2025, held in the Dominican Republic;
3. The champions of each category of the III South American School Chess Championship 2025, held in Chile;
4. The champions of each category of the I North American School Chess Festival 2025, held in Mexico.

National federations must inform the organization of the registration of official players by **March 11, 2026**. Registration is only confirmed after payment of the corresponding fees. The organization is responsible for 100% of the food and accommodation of official players from May 11 (dinner) to May 18 (breakfast).

Each Federation may submit as many players as it wishes, without restriction, who must finance their full registration, travel, accommodation, and food expenses. Accompanying persons must cover their full expenses and be informed and registered by the Federations.

No player may be registered without the endorsement of their respective Federation. In cases of conflict, CCA may decide to register players.



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III. EVENT PROGRAM

- See the detailed schedule in the Technical Regulations (page 9).

IV. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The tournament will be held in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess and the official FIDE and CCA rules for competitions. Please refer to the Technical Regulations for the XV Pan American U7-U17 Chess Championship 2026, which form an integral part of this Invitation (page 8).

V.- ACCOMMODATION PACKAGES; REGISTRATION FEES; DEPOSITS

OFFICIAL HOTEL ROYAL DECAMERON SALINITAS - (ALL INCLUSIVE) Link!!

<https://www.decameron.com/es/hoteles/sonsonate/royal-decameron-salinitas/>

ROOM TYPE	PRICE PER PERSON
Single	\$ USD 1,050
Double	\$ USD 735
Triple	\$ USD 690
Children under 12 years old	\$ USD 420

All players, coaches, and accompanying persons must make their hotel reservations through the PANAMERICANO ORGANIZATION. Direct reservations with the hotel **will NOT be accepted** as part of the Official Hotel and **will be subject to a penalty of USD 150 per person.**

REGISTRATION FEE:

Participants must pay the following tournament registration fees:

- **Official Players:** USD 140 (Includes CCA fee)
- **Extra Players:** USD 160 (Includes CCA fee)
- **Rapid:** USD 25 (Includes CCA fee)
- **Blitz:** USD 25 (Includes CCA fee)
- **Accreditation:** USD 20 (delegates, coaches, and accompanying persons)



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Registered participants may hire a transfer service (optional) from El Salvador International Airport (SAL) to the official hotel. This service will cost a non-refundable \$40 USD per participant (one way) or \$75 USD (round trip). The transfer service will operate on May 11 and 18. Flight details must be provided at the time of registration.

WE OFFER SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION PACKAGES FROM GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS (TEGUCIGALPA AND SAN PEDRO SULA). ASK ABOUT OUR TOURS!

INTERNATIONAL BANK TRANSFER

Organizer Bank Account

BENEFICIARY NAME	Erick Ademir Hernández Portillo
BANK ACCOUNT IN DOLLARS	3550623855
BENEFICIARY ADDRESS	Cond. Residencial los Ángeles Calle Principal No.101 Ayutuxtepeque, San Salvador
BANK NAME	Banco Agrícola SA
BANK ADDRESS	Boulevard Constitución No. 100 San Salvador, El Salvador
SWIFT CODE	CAGRSVSS

You must send the bank transfer with details of the payments made to the organization's official email address: panamericanou7u17elsalvador2026@yahoo.com

Any costs related to transfer fees or bank commissions must be covered by the person sending the bank transfer.



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VI.- REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS AND DEADLINES

Federations must email the registration of all their official participants to the Organizing Committee by **March 11, 2026, inclusive**, to the following address: panamericanou7u17elsalvador2026@yahoo.com

Registrations for extra players must be made by the national federations by **April 12** via email to the following official email address: panamericanou7u17elsalvador2026@yahoo.com providing the following information: Full name, date of birth, FIDE ID, proof of payment, contact details, and the category in which each player will participate. After April 12, registrations will be subject to approval by the organization, hotel availability, and the cost per night will increase by **USD 10 per night** per person or the proportional value of the fine. Registrations are personal and non-transferable. No credits or refunds will be given. Registration is only confirmed after payment of the corresponding amounts.

VII.- AWARDS

Please refer to the Technical Regulations for the XV Pan American U7-U17 Chess Championship 2026, which forms an integral part of this Invitation, for a complete description of the individual awards. The awards will be presented at the official closing ceremony.

VIII.- VISA INFORMATION

Most countries do not require a visa to enter El Salvador for stays of up to 90 days. Players who need a visa to enter El Salvador must register by **March 20, 2026**, at the latest, and send a copy of their passports to the organizing committee. After that date, the organization will not be responsible for any immigration procedures.

The organization will provide invitations for players who need visas.

IX.- TOURNAMENT AUTHORITIES

CCA President: Mr. José Carrillo Pujol.
FSA President: Mr. David Ernesto Blanco



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Organizer

Erick Hernández **+50377403520**

EMAIL: panamericanou7u17elsalvador2026@yahoo.com

The official website of the event is www.fideamerica.net where the results and photos of the event will be published. Participants or those responsible for them authorize the free use of their image for dissemination in printed or digital material for informational purposes.



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TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

PAN AMERICAN U7-U17 CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

ABSOLUTE AND FEMALE - 2026

SONSONATE – EL SALVADOR – MAY 11 TO 18, 2026

X.- APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

The Pan American U7-U17 Chess Championship will be played in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess, the FIDE General Competition Regulations, the applicable CCA Rules, and these Technical Regulations. At any time, any circumstance or fortuitous event not covered by the above rules will be referred to the CCA for a final decision.

XI.- FORMAT AND SYSTEM

The Tournament will be played using the Swiss system over nine rounds, or Round Robin in the event that the tournament has 10 participants or fewer.

XII.- TIME CONTROL

Time: 90 minutes plus 30 seconds per move, starting from the first move.

Default Time: 30 minutes from the start of the round.

If a player arrives at the chessboard later than the default time, they will be declared to have lost by forfeit.

XIII.- TIEBREAKERS

CCA tournaments use technical tiebreakers according to the current FIDE Tiebreak Regulations.

For categories in which the competition is played as a Swiss system event, the final ranking order of the players is determined by the number of points obtained. If at the end of the tournament, two or more players are tied, the tie will be broken in the following order, systems in strict order:



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Swiss System:

- a. Buchholz cut 1
- b. Buchholz
- c. Sonneborn-Berger
- d. Cumulative System—Sum of progressive points.
- e. Direct Encounter
- f. Greater number of wins

For categories in which the competition is played as a round-robin event, the final ranking order of players is determined by the number of points earned. If at the end of the tournament, two or more players are tied, the tie will be broken as follows:

Round Robin:

- a) Direct Encounter
- b) Greater number of wins
- c) Greater number of wins with black
- d) Sonneborn-Berger with actual points
- e) Koya system

XIV.- SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
MONDAY	MAY 11	HOTEL CHECK-IN	15.00
MONDAY	MAY 11	TECHNICAL MEETING	18.00
TUESDAY	MAY 12	OPENING CEREMONY	10.00
TUESDAY	MAY 12	ROUND 1	10.30
TUESDAY	MAY 12	ROUND 2	16.30
WEDNESDAY	MAY 13	ROUND 3	10.00
WEDNESDAY	MAY 13	RAPID	16.00
THURSDAY	MAY 14	ROUND 4	10.00
THURSDAY	MAY 14	ROUND 5	16.00
FRIDAY	MAY 15	ROUND 6	10.00
FRIDAY	MAY 15	BLITZ	16.00
SATURDAY	MAY 16	ROUND 7	10.00
SATURDAY	MAY 16	ROUND 8	16.00
SUNDAY	MAY 17	ROUND 9	10.00
SUNDAY	MAY 17	AWARDS CEREMONY	15.00
MONDAY	MAY 18	HOTEL DEPARTURE	12.00

Table 1. Event schedule



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XV.- CONDUCT OF PLAYERS

All participants are subject to the Laws of Chess and shall behave at all times during the tournament in accordance with the statutes of the CCA and FIDE and the highest principles of sportsmanship.

Players are expected to be present at all official events approved by the CCA and the event organization, including the opening and closing ceremonies and technical meetings. If necessary, the Chief Arbiter may call other technical meetings.

Players are expected to cooperate with the media and be available for brief interviews immediately after each game.

Players must comply with the requirements of the FIDE Regulations to maintain a dignified appearance at all times during the event.

XVI.- FAIR PLAY; ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Fair play measures will be implemented in accordance with FIDE anti-cheating guidelines. The only exception is the approved devices used for live transmission of moves, when supplied by the organizer. During the game, players are prohibited from having any electronic devices in the playing area and may not carry bags or backpacks.

Accompanying persons or spectators are not allowed to enter the playing hall 10 minutes after the start of the round.

XVII.- APPEALS COMMITTEE

The CCA and the Organizer shall appoint the chairperson and two (2) other members of the Appeals Committee, as well as two (2) alternates. All names shall be announced no later than the start of the Technical Meeting and before the start of the first round.

None of the three (3) members of the Appeals Committee may judge a dispute involving a player from their national chess federation. An alternate takes their place in such a case.

Only a player may file an appeal. All appeals shall be submitted to the Appeals Committee in writing no later than one (1) hour after the end of the round or the time when the alleged infringement occurred.

Each appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of USD 100 (one hundred US dollars). If the appeal is accepted, the deposit will be refunded. If the appeal is rejected, the deposit will not be returned.



The Appeals Committee may decide on the following matters:

- a) an appeal against a decision made by an arbiter,
- b) a protest against the behavior of a player,
- c) all other matters deemed relevant by the Appeals Committee.

The written decision of the Appeals Committee is final.

XVIII.- AWARDS

The winner of each category of the XV Pan American U7-U17 Absolute and Women's Chess Championship 2026 will receive the title of Champion and the corresponding prizes set out below.

<https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/B01DirectTitles2025>

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

The top five (05) places in each category in the absolute and women's divisions will be awarded as follows:

Place	Prize
1st	Trophy + Medal
2nd	Trophy + Medal
3rd	Trophy + Medal
4th	Medal
5th	Medal

Table 2. Awards by location

SPECIAL AWARD FOR DELEGATIONS

The overall ranking of countries will be calculated based on the points obtained according to the placement of their athletes in each of the Classical Time-Control Modality categories, in accordance with the following table.

PLACE	POINTS
1st	3 POINTS
2nd	2 POINTS
3rd	1 POINTS

Table 3. Scores by Delegation



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Trophies will be awarded to the top three (03) delegations that have obtained the highest score, taking into account the previous item. If there is a tie between delegations in the overall classification, the first tiebreaker criterion will be the highest number of athletes in the delegations. If the tie persists, the second criterion will be the highest number of female athletes.

TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

PAN AMERICAN U7-U17 CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP RAPID AND BLITZ

SONSONATE – EL SALVADOR – MAY 11-18, 2026

XIX.- APPLICABLE RULES

The Rapid and Blitz Championship will be played in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess and the FIDE General Competition Regulations, and will be valid for FIDE Rapid and Blitz ELO ratings.

The Tournament will be played in a nine (9) round Swiss **Open** format.

Rapid game time control: 10 minutes plus 5 seconds increment per move, from the first move.

Blitz game time control: 3 minutes plus 2 seconds increment per move, from the first move.

For categories in which the competition is played as a Swiss system event, the final ranking order of players is determined by the number of points obtained. If at the end of the tournament, two or more players are tied, the tiebreaker will be applied as follows:

- a. Buchholz cut 1
- b. Buchholz
- c. Sonneborn-Berger
- d. Cumulative System—Sum of progressive points.
- e. Direct Encounter
- f. Greater number of wins



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For categories in which the competition is played as a round-robin event, the final ranking order of players is determined by the number of points earned. If, at the end of the tournament, two or more players are tied, the tie will be broken as follows:

- a) Direct Encounter
- b) Greater number of wins
- c) Greater number of wins with black
- d) Sonneborn-Berger with actual points
- e) Koya system

The top five (5) places in the Rapid and Blitz categories for each absolute and women's category will be awarded as follows:

Place	Prize
1st	Trophy + Medal
2nd	Trophy + Medal
3rd	Trophy + Medal
4th	Medal
5th	Medal

Table 4. Awards by place

CATEGORIES:

- Under 17 (Born in 2009 or later)
- Under 15 (Born in 2011 or later)
- Under 13 (Born in 2013 or later)
- Under 11 (Born in 2015 or later)
- Under 9 (Born in 2017 or later)
- Under 7 (Born in 2019 or later)

RAPID AND BLITZ TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION PROCESS

Participants must register no later than **8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2026**, by emailing panamericanou7u17elsalvador2026@yahoo.com.



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